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UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS

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March 29, 1962

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

~~CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM~~
~~RELEASE IN FULL 1995~~
The Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Subject: Strengthening United States
Government Activities Among
Free World Youth

Of critical importance is the question of how
the Government can deal more effectively with the
youth of the free world.

Attached is a paper that I would like to discuss
with you and other government officials who have im-
portant responsibilities in the field of international
youth affairs.

If convenient, I suggest that we meet on Thurs-
day, April 5, at 11:00 a.m., in Room 7219 at the State
Department.

Q... c. m. cl..
George C. McGhee

Attachment

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AGENDA

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING ON YOUTH

- I. Should someone in Government be designated to be responsible for coordinating international student and youth affairs? In what agency should this person be located, and who should appoint him?
- II. Is the attached statement of objectives agreed to? (Annex A)
- III. What should be done in this field? (Annex B)

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ANNEX A

Objectives

1. To enlist the energies, enthusiasm and imagination of youth throughout the free world in the development of their countries in responsible freedom, and
2. To provide effective machinery in this Government to stimulate and guide international youth activities toward this end.

Discussion

If we are to achieve the kind of world we would like to see and prevent the spread of Communist subversion, we must get the youth of the world on our side. Much of it is not there now. In the underdeveloped countries in particular, the lack of social justice and economic opportunity has been largely responsible for the traditional radical and revolutionary tendencies of students and young intellectuals upon which the Communists have so energetically and effectively capitalized.

Given clearly understood goals for the development of their countries in freedom (like the Alliance for Progress), reasonable hopes of attaining these goals, and a coordinated effort on our part comparable in scope, skill and effort to that of Moscow, there is no reason why this youthful energy and enthusiasm cannot be captured for constructive purposes.

The U. S. Government and people have devoted a considerable amount of effort to some aspects of the problem, notably the exchange of students and professors, but on an almost totally uncoordinated basis. We have never attempted a comprehensive, coordinated program.

The role of the U. S. Government in this field should be both altruistic and unobtrusive. We should not openly seek the sympathy of youth in other countries for our system or our national objectives; we will obtain it better as a by-product if we emphasize our interest and sympathy for the attainment of their aspirations in freedom.

Student

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Student and youth groups would be understandably resentful of governmental, particularly U. S., interference in their activities and our initiatives must be carefully conceived if they are not to backfire. On the other hand, the same groups would welcome U. S. Government interest in understanding of and assistance toward the attainment of their legitimate aspirations.

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ANNEX B

The following preliminary steps are suggested for consideration:

1. As a first step, contact should be established informally with the leaders of various American student and youth organizations to explore jointly with them ways and means by which youth can contribute directly and responsibly to the pursuit of national objectives and to discuss with them on an informal basis the role Government should properly assume.

2. At some future date, a statement by the President embodying a declaration of faith in the future of free societies and an expression of confidence in youth's intention to meet the challenge of our time might serve as a valuable means of demonstrating to youth in this country and throughout the world the interest of the American people and government in their goals and aspirations.

3. A Coordinator for International Student and Youth Affairs should be appointed and the appointment should be announced immediately following the President's statement on the goals of youth. Prior to the President's statement, the individual who is to be appointed should work discreetly to:

- a. Assess the major U. S. programs (governmental and private) for foreign and U. S. youth and students as they are related to this problem.
- b. Make recommendations as to how existing programs can be made more effective and recommend new initiatives in this area.
- c. Provide a focus within the Government for coordination and operation in this field.

4. Two points of caution need to be particularly emphasized: 1) the Presidential statement should not be issued until such time as considerable progress has already been achieved along the lines discussed in the preceding paragraph; and, 2) great care should be taken to avoid saying publicly anything which would give the Communists unnecessary opportunities for propaganda exploitation.

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Possible continuing activities:

1. Direct an informal and discreet exploration with U. S. youth and student groups of the ways the State Department could increase its support for U. S. and non-communist international youth organizations. Expand contacts between the State Department and these organizations and seek ways to sponsor or send observers to meetings, seminars and congresses of these organizations. The Coordinator would serve as a central contact point with which U. S. and foreign youth groups could work on a co-operative basis in the international student and youth field.
2. Study, in collaboration with USIA and private agencies, the possibility of establishing a "Youth USA" publication that would be translated into French, Spanish, Arabic and other appropriate languages to discuss the views and activities of Free World student and youth groups, specifically U. S. groups. The various U. S. groups might be asked to assist in the publication or contribute articles to it. The publication might actually be placed under a "consortium" of U. S. youth groups.
3. Devise ways and operations to counter massive Soviet efforts in this field and specifically to meet the challenge of Communist Youth Festivals, Forums and Congresses.
4. Plan a broader use of and establish new regional seminars (such as the Salzburg Seminar) and make use of them to bring together young people and student leaders in the same region to discuss their views on political problems.
5. Plan and program in collaboration with the 1964 New York World's Fair Committee, U. S. student organizations, and other interested private organizations for facilities for attracting to this country, housing and cultivating foreign students at the 1964 New York World's Fair. A type of "Youth Seminar" might be set up at the

Fair.

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Fair. (Note: There is some consideration being given to the building of youth hostels and a Youth Pavilion at the Fair and there are indications that U. S. youth groups are ripe for such an initiative.)

6. Work with the Department of Commerce in its "Visit America" program to increase interest in youth hostels and facilitate inexpensive youth tours to this country.

7. Assist the Peace Corps in such ways as it may desire, including the encouragement of similar indigenous organizations in other countries for cooperation with the Peace Corps and the conduct of similar operations in their own countries.

8. Supervise the program which is now being established to assist Asian, African, and Latin American students who have become disaffected and have left Soviet bloc schools. Assist in working out jointly with some NATO allies broader programs in this area.

9. Serve as a prestigious contact for foreign student and youth leaders who visit this country and develop a program for bringing to Washington foreign and U. S. youth and student leaders who may be studying in this country. Offer broader State Department cooperation in Washington Seminars conducted by U. S. groups and other government agencies.

10. Special attention on all levels of activities could be focused on certain key universities such as University of Cairo; the Sorbonne; Louvanium in the Congo; the Ibaden, Dakar; Mexico City; Caracas; Tokyo, etc. Special emphasis and provision would be made for reporting on political aspects of local student and youth groups in these universities and specific programming would be developed for closer contact and exchanges between these universities and American universities. These key universities would be objects of major U. S. Government and private support through expanded educational exchange programs and the establishment of integrated programs providing for

"junior year"

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"junior year" or graduate study in a United States university. Furthermore, the Foreign Service Institute could utilize these select universities for one year of a two-year language and area training program for Junior Foreign Service Officers. The Foreign Service Officer attending a specific university would be called upon to make close contacts with youth leaders, advise on possible grantees and make recommendations at the end of his year on means by which the U. S. could expand its influence in the university. Junior FSO's assigned to Embassies in these countries could be assigned, as a collateral duty, to report on youth and student activities.

11. In general, make more extensive use of Junior Foreign Service Officers in the field in reporting on and contacting youth and student leaders.

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